



SUPERMAN'S

30¢
NO. 465
NOV.
30410



ACTION COMICS

OWW!

YOU ALWAYS BEAT ME
MAN-TO-MAN--

--BUT AFTER I CHANGE
YOU FROM **SUPERMAN**
TO **SUPERBOY**, I'LL
HAVE THE UPPER HAND--

--AND
**YOU'LL
DIE!**



STILL ANOTHER
POWER-PACKED EPISODE
IN THE AMAZING
ADVENTURES OF

SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER

BY THE DOUBLE
MOONS OF KRYPTON!

HOW DID THEY
GET THAT WAY?

THE BATMAN TO ONE SIDE
OF ME -- THE FLASH ON
THE OTHER... BOTH
YEARS YOUNGER
THAN THEY
SHOULD BE!

NOT ONLY HOW,
SUPERMAN--
BUT WHY?

AND WHEN YOU FIND
OUT THE ANSWERS,
YOU WILL START TO--

"THINK YOUNG AND DIE!"

STORY: CARY BATES

ART: CURT SWAN & TEX BLAISDELL

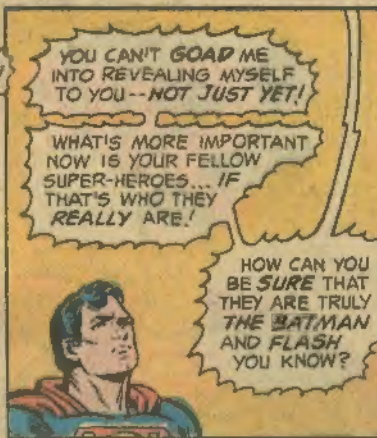
EDITING: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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THANKS FOR THE
PLAY-BY-PLAY,
FLASH... BUT I
DEDUCE SUPER-
SKEPTIC ISN'T
SOLD ON US YET!



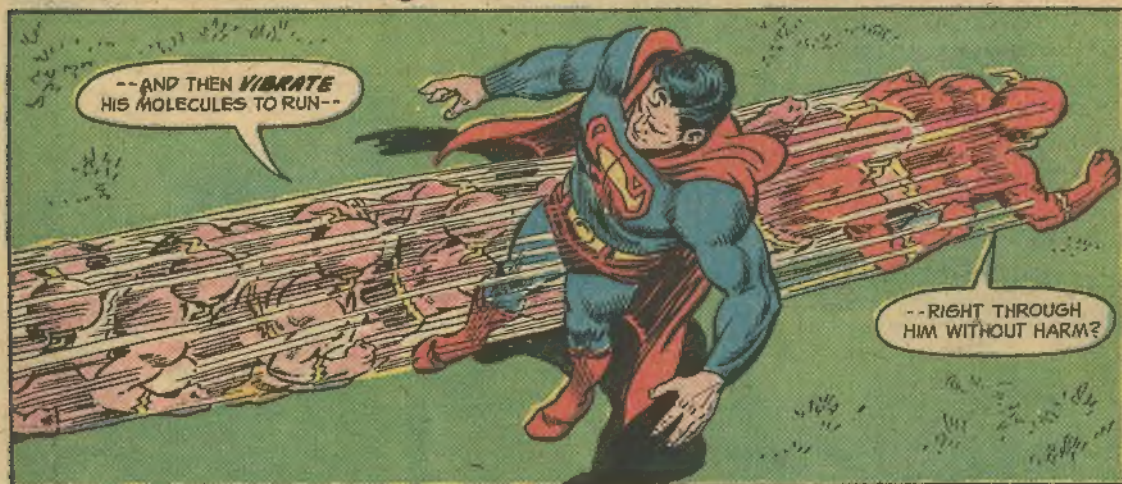
WELL, HE'S
ALREADY SEEN
TWO DEMONSTRATIONS
OF FLASH-SPEED--

--BUT
IF
HE
STILL
NEEDS
A
CONVINCER--



--WHO ELSE BUT THE SCARLET
SPEEDSTER COULD CATCH THE
MAN OF STEEL LIKE THIS--

--WHISK HIM OFF
HIS FEET WITH
A SUPER-SPEED
BACKWASH--



--AND THEN *VIBRATE*
HIS MOLECULES TO RUN--

--RIGHT THROUGH
HIM WITHOUT HARM?



THEN--

NOW FOR A TEST OF
MY OWN CHOOSING--
AN EYE-IDENTITY TEST!

MY X-RAY VISION
SHOWS THAT THESE
TWO HAVE THE FACES
OF A YOUNG BARRY
ALLEN AND A BOYISH
BRUCE WAYNE, BUT--

--NOW FOR THE PROOF--
POSITIVE-- WHERE
WORDS WILL SPEAK
LOUDER THAN ACTIONS!



TELL ME,
BATMAN--WHAT
FAVOR DID YOU ASK
ME AFTER WE
DEPOSITED EFFRON'S
GOLDEN EYE IN
MY FORTRESS?



FLASH, WHERE
DID WE ENCOUNTER
A DONUT-SHAPED
SUN?

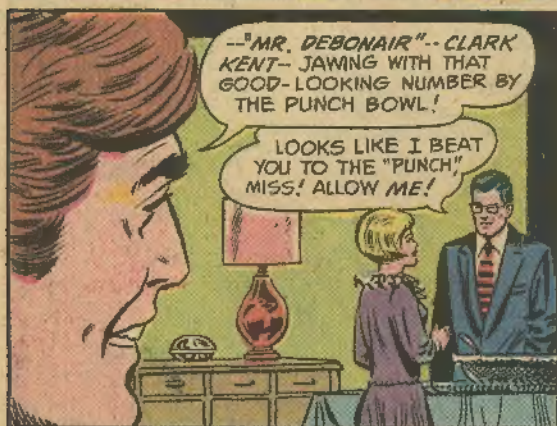
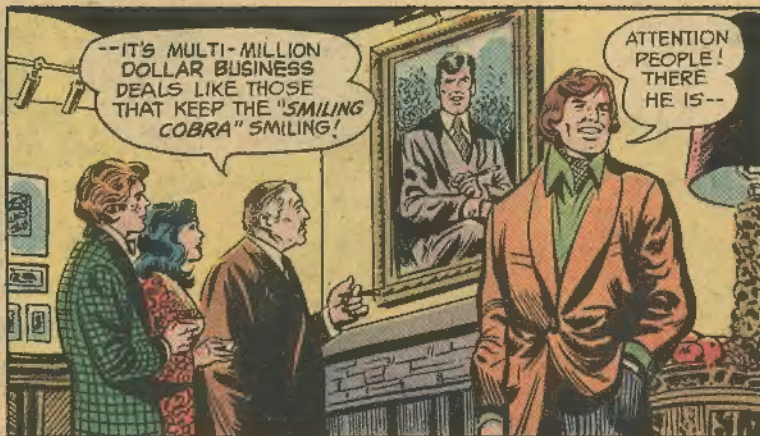
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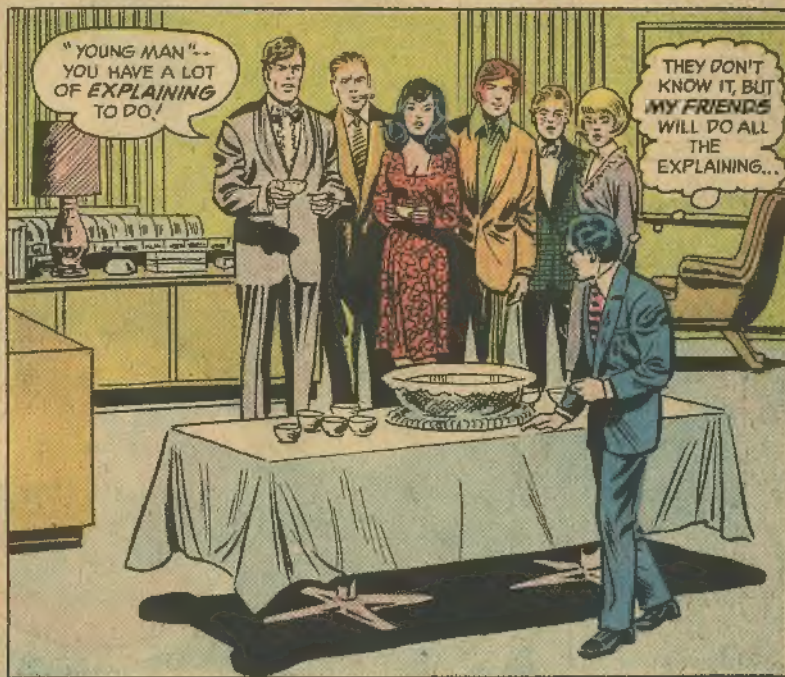


METROPOLIS, NEXT EVENING--
WHERE FESTIVITIES ARE
IN PROGRESS HIGH ATOP
THE GALAXY BUILDING...

IT'S LIKE CLOCKWORK!
EVERY TIME MORGAN EDGE
BUYS UP ANOTHER TV STATION
FOR GALAXY COMMUNICATIONS,
HE THROWS ONE OF THESE
PENTHOUSE PARTIES!

DON'T
KNOCK
THEM,
JIMMY--







...AFTER I PUT MY PRE-ARRANGED EMERGENCY PLAN INTO OPERATION--

--A WELL-PLACED GUST OF SUPER-BREATH TO SEND PUNCH SPRAYING ALL OVER EVERYONE IN THE ROOM!

EEK!
THE PUNCH IS EXPLODING!



AND NO MORE THAN ONE INCREDIBLE MOMENT LATER...

HEY, THERE, LOIS-- YOU DON'T LOOK A DAY OVER SWEET SIXTEEN!

AND NEITHER DO YOU, STEVIE!

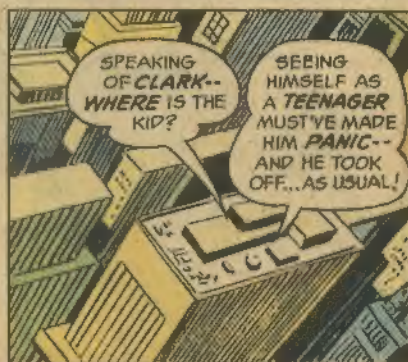
GREAT GALAXY!
WE'VE ALL BEEN REJUVENATED!



LISTEN, GANG-- I KNOW IT SOUNDS WEIRD-- BUT COULD IT HAVE BEEN SOMETHING IN THE PUNCH?

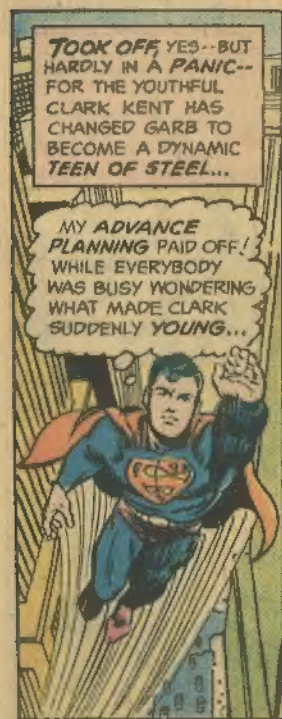
YEAH, THAT'S GOT TO BE IT!

FIRST IT SPILLED ON CLARK... THEN EXPLODED ALL OVER THE REST OF US!



SPEAKING OF CLARK-- WHERE IS THE KID?

SEEING HIMSELF AS A TEENAGER MUST'VE MADE HIM PANIC-- AND HE TOOK OFF...AS USUAL!



TOOK OFF YES-- BUT HARDLY IN A PANIC-- FOR THE YOUTHFUL CLARK KENT HAS CHANGED GARB TO BECOME A DYNAMIC TEEN OF STEEL...

MY ADVANCE PLANNING PAID OFF! WHILE EVERYBODY WAS BUSY WONDERING WHAT MADE CLARK SUDDENLY YOUNG...



"...NO ONE NOTICED ME PALMING A MINATURE SPRAY-CYLINDER I BROUGHT ALONG--"

"--RELEASING AN INVISIBLE GAS INTO THE ROOM!"



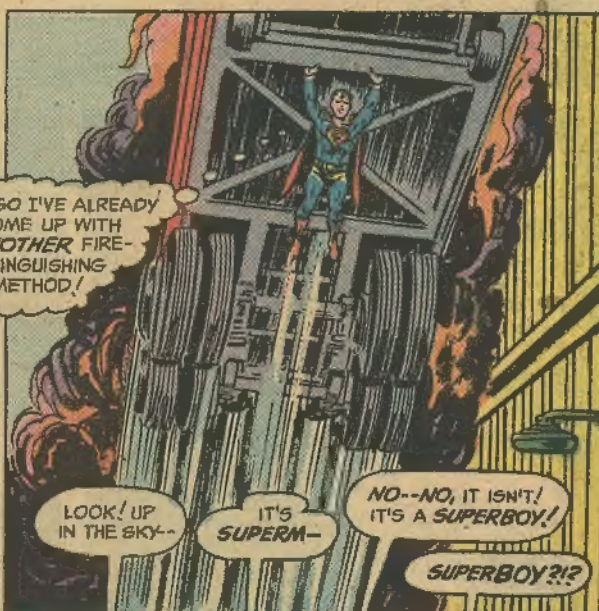
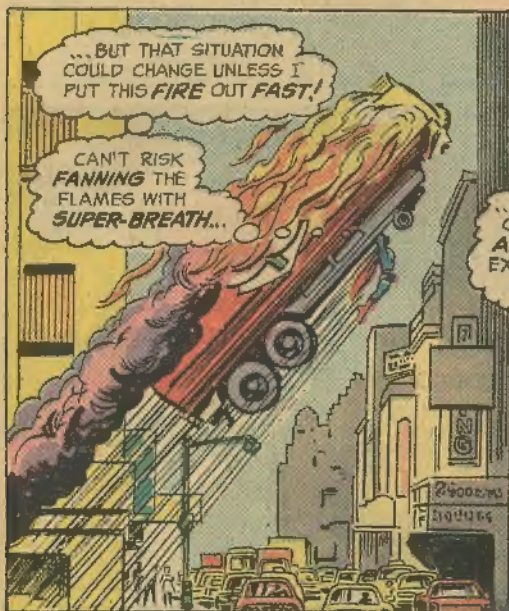
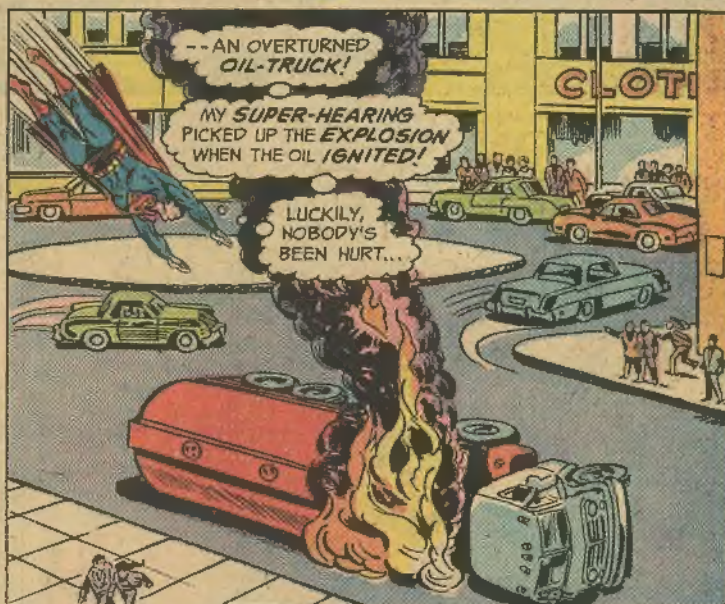
THAT GAS WAS SIMILAR IN COMPOSITION TO A YOUTH SERUM FROM ANOTHER DIMENSIONAL WORLD...*

...BUT UNLIKE THE ORIGINAL, THIS TYPE WORKS ONLY FOR A FEW SECONDS!

*IT WAS USED ON MA AND PA KENT IN SUPERBOY #145--EDITOR

CONTINUED ON 31 PAGE FORTY-NINE

AND IN THE SPACE OF THOSE FEW SECONDS...



AND A MOMENT LATER, IN METROPOLIS BAY...

GREAT KRYPTON!
INSTEAD OF DOUSING
THE FIRE, THE WATER HAS
SPREAD THE FLAMES!

WHAT A DUMMY
I AM!

I FORGOT THAT
OIL AND WATER
DON'T MIX!

HOW COULD
I MAKE SUCH
A CHILDISH
MISTAKE?

BETTER THINK
FAST AND COME
UP WITH A BETTER
WAY--

--GOT IT! AN
INTENSE BURST
OF SUPER SPEED
SPIRALING--

CREATING
ENOUGH AIR-
SUCTION--

- TO WHISK
THE OIL TRUCK
AND THE FLAMING
WATER UPWARD--

- THROUGH
THOUSANDS
OF FEET OF
ATMOSPHERE

--INTO OUTER SPACE,
WHERE THERE'S NO
OXYGEN TO FEED
THE FLAMES!

SUPERMAN WOULD
HAVE HANDLED
THE BLAZE THIS
WAY TO BEGIN
WITH!

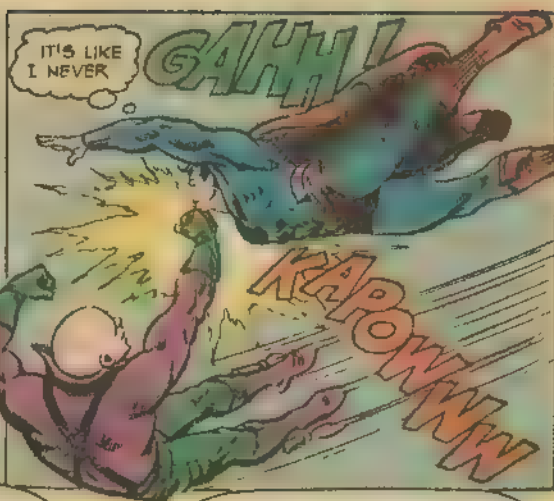
BUT I DIDN'T--
AND I THINK
I KNOW WHY!

IF MY THEORY IS
RIGHT, THIS IS THE
MOST DIABOLIC SCHEME
LUTHOR HAS EVER
DREAMED UP!



ONE OF THE BY-PRODUCTS
OF AGE IS EXPERIENCE
... AND THANKS TO
LUTHOR I'M NOW
SHORT ON BOTH!

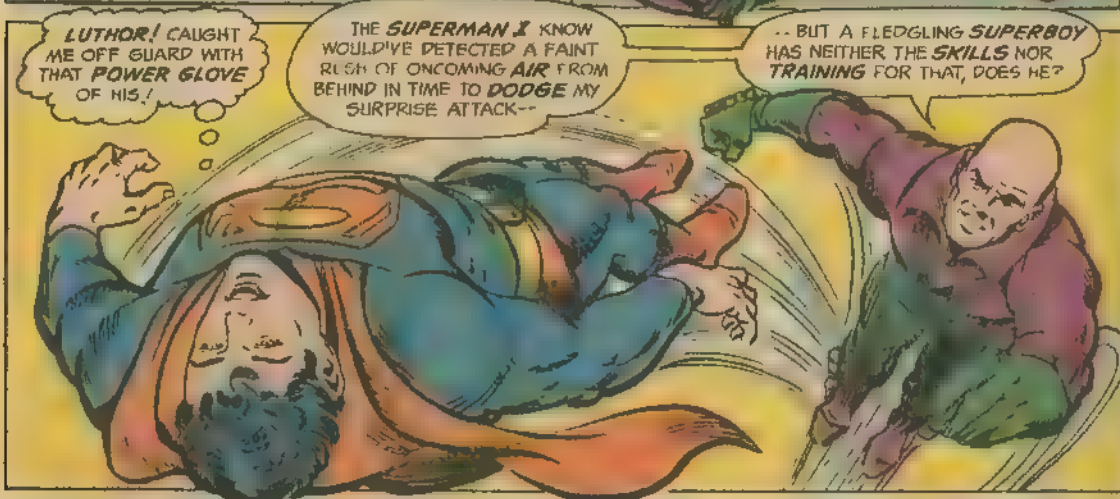
ALL THE YEARS OF
PRACTICE I'VE
HAD USING MY
SUPER-POWERS
ARE LOST--
GONE!



IT'S LIKE
I NEVER

GAHH!

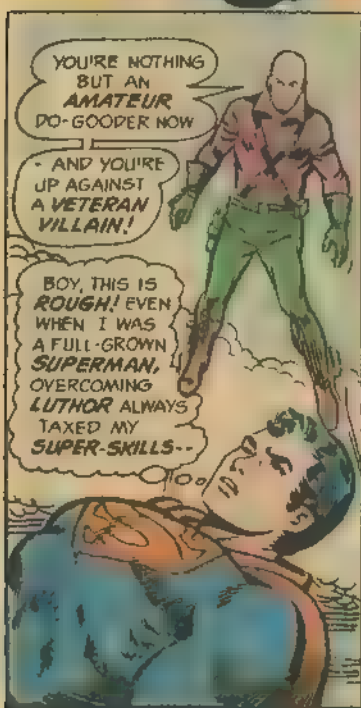
KAPOWWW



LUTHOR! CAUGHT
ME OFF GUARD WITH
THAT POWER GLOVE
OF HIS!

THE SUPERMAN I KNOW
WOULDN'T HAVE DETECTED A FAINT
RUSH OF ONCOMING AIR FROM
BEHIND IN TIME TO DODGE MY
SURPRISE ATTACK--

-- BUT A FLEDGLING SUPERBOY
HAS NEITHER THE SKILLS NOR
TRAINING FOR THAT, DOES HE?



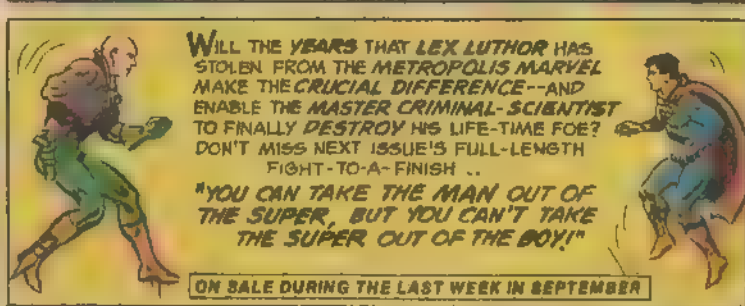
YOU'RE NOTHING
BUT AN
AMATEUR
DO-GOODER NOW

AND YOU'RE
UP AGAINST
A VETERAN
VILLAIN!

BOY, THIS IS
ROUGH! EVEN
WHEN I WAS
A FULL-GROWN
SUPERMAN,
OVERCOMING
LUTHOR ALWAYS
TAXED MY
SUPER-SKILLS--



-- BUT NOW... THE
FIGHTING ODDS
ARE ALL IN
LUTHOR'S FAVOR!



WILL THE YEARS THAT LEX LUTHOR HAS
STOLEN FROM THE METROPOLIS MARVEL
MAKE THE CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE--AND
ENABLE THE MASTER CRIMINAL-SCIENTIST
TO FINALLY DESTROY HIS LIFE-TIME FOE?
DON'T MISS NEXT ISSUE'S FULL-LENGTH
FIGHT-TO-A-FINISH ..

"YOU CAN TAKE THE MAN OUT OF
THE SUPER, BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE
THE SUPER OUT OF THE BOY!"

ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER

AN AUTUMN EVE IN
METROPOLIS:
WIND-CHURNED LEAVES DRIFT
LAZILY PAST THE PANORAMIC
WINDOW OF A PENTHOUSE
ON METRO PARK WEST.

...AN IDYLIC SETTING TO
TURN A YOUNG MAN'S FANCY
TO THOUGHTS OF LOVE! BUT
NOT SO STEVE LOMBARD'S...

THIS IS WHAT
YOU ASKED ME
UP HERE FOR, ?

..NOT EVEN TO SHOW
ME YOUR ETCHINGS--
BUT TO DICTATE A CHAPTER
OF YOUR MEMOIRS?

YOU'RE A
SECRETARY,
AIN'TCHA, SHIRLEY?

..AND AT
THE PRICES
YOU CHARGE,
YOU'D BETTER
DOT EVERY
LITTLE 'I'
SPECTACULARLY!

WHO WOULD A THUNK
IT? ME SHIRLEY
LAVITSKY--ALONE
N A BACHELOR'S
PAD WITH STEVE
LOMBARD, THE
SMARTMOUTH
SPORTSCASTER
AND EX-FOOTBALL
JOCK.

HOPIN FOR A TITLE
INDOOR SPORT' AND
WHAT DO I GET?

THE BEST SPORT
THERE IS-- THE
PRIVILEGE OF BEING
THE FIRST TO HEAR THE
LATEST CHAPTER IN

THE SPORTING LIFE OF STEVE LOMBARD

"NOW, THEN: IT WAS A BIG DAY FOR ME AT
THE GALAXY COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING
WHEN I'D BEEN INVITED UPSTAIRS TO MEET
WITH THE PUBLISHER OF GALAXY PAPERBACK
LIBRARY..."

..AND WE'D LIKE YOU
TO WRITE THE FOREWORD
TO A TITLE ON OUR
NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

ME? I'M NOT A WRITER!
I GOT A GOOD PASSING
ARM AND A BIG MOUTH.

BUT IN FRONT OF A
TYPEWRITER, I'M
AS OUT-OF-PLACE AS
CLARK KENT ON A
FOOTBALL FIELD!

WE THINK
YOU'LL SAY
"YES" WHEN
I TELL YOU
THE BOOK'S
TITLE ..

"..WINNING
IS THE
ONLY
THING" ..

--THE
AUTOBIOGRAPHY
OF THE LATE
COACH CHUCK
GURALDI--
YOUR COACH
BEFORE YOU
WERE TRADED
TO METRO BY
THE CENTRAL
CITY CENTAURS!



CHUCK DEVOTES AN ENTIRE CHAPTER TO HOW YOU SAVED HIS LIFE...

...SO YOU'RE A PERFECT CHOICE TO WRITE THE INTRODUCTION!

"YEAH, I *KNEW* HIM, ALL RIGHT."



...AND HE WAS A FOUR-STAR CRUMB... A SLAVE-DRIVER!

HE BERATED HIS TEAM, INSULTED US, ABUSED US, ANYTHING FOR A VICTORY!



THE PUBLIC THOUGHT HE WAS SOME KINDA *HERO* FOR HIS TRACK RECORD! IF THEY ONLY KNEW WHAT ALL THOSE WINS COST HIS MEN--!

I ALMOST TURNED DOWN THE TOP OF WRITING THAT FOREWORD...



...WITHOUT EVEN READING THE MANUSCRIPT, BECAUSE I *KNEW* THAT CHUCK BELIEVED HIS OWN *LEGEND*--AND THAT I'D HAVE TO CONTRADICT IT!

I COULDN'T BE DISHONEST!



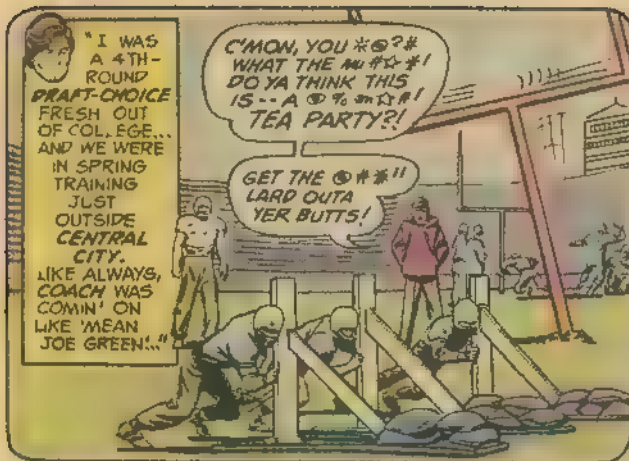
BUT NEITHER COULD I BRING MYSELF TO TARNISH A DEAD MAN'S MEMORY IN HIS OWN BOOK!

SO HOW COULD I TELL THE WORLD THAT CHUCK GURALDI WAS ONLY A...

"PAPER HERO!"

NOW--IN MY OWN BOOK--I CAN TELL IT LIKE IT REALLY HAPPENED...

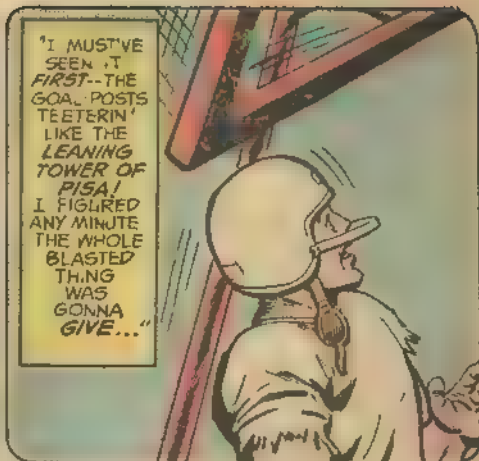
... ASSISTED BY: MARTIN PASKO -- WRITER,
CURT SWAN & FRANK McLAUGHLIN -- ARTISTS
JULIUS SCHWARTZ -- EDITOR,



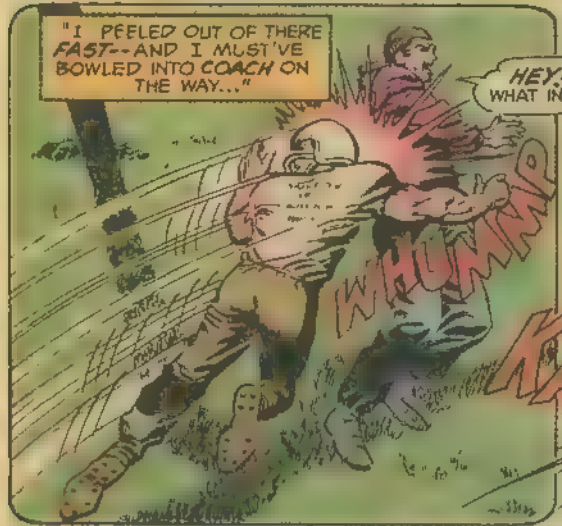
"I WAS A 4TH-ROUND DRAFT-CHOICE FRESH OUT OF COLLEGE... AND WE WERE IN SPRING TRAINING JUST OUTSIDE CENTRAL CITY. LIKE ALWAYS, COACH WAS COMIN' ON LIKE 'MEAN JOE GREEN'..."

C'MON, YOU *@?# WHAT THE M@*#*! DO YA THINK THIS IS-- A @% *\$*#! TEA PARTY?!

GET THE @*#*! LARD OUTA YER BUTTS!

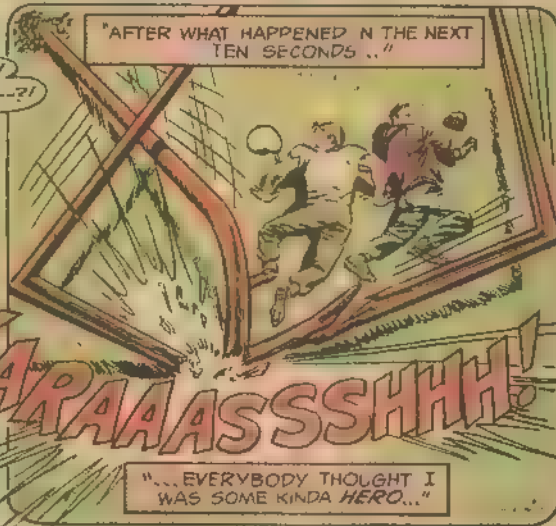


"I MUST'VE SEEN IT FIRST--THE GOAL POSTS TEETERIN' LIKE THE LEANING TOWER OF PISA! I FIGURED ANY MINUTE THE WHOLE BLASTED THING WAS GONNA GIVE..."



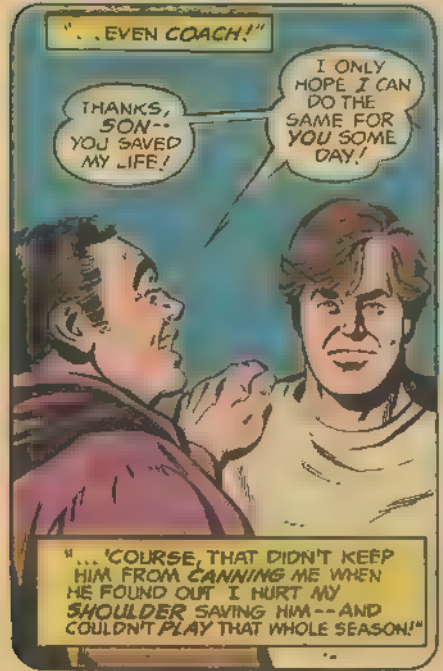
"I PEELED OUT OF THERE FAST--AND I MUST'VE BOWLED INTO COACH ON THE WAY..."

HEY! WHAT IN--?!



"AFTER WHAT HAPPENED N THE NEXT TEN SECONDS..."

"...EVERYBODY THOUGHT I WAS SOME KINDA HERO..."



"...EVEN COACH!"

THANKS, SON-- YOU SAVED MY LIFE!

I ONLY HOPE I CAN DO THE SAME FOR YOU SOME DAY!

"... 'COURSE, THAT DIDN'T KEEP HIM FROM CANNING ME WHEN HE FOUND OUT I HURT MY SHOULDER SAVING HIM--AND COULDN'T PLAY THAT WHOLE SEASON!"



FACT IS, THAT "SAVE" WAS AN ACCIDENT! ME AND THE GLYS WERE SO TICKED OFF AT GURALDI.

...THAT IF I'D HAD A CHANCE TO THINK ABOUT RESCUING HIM...

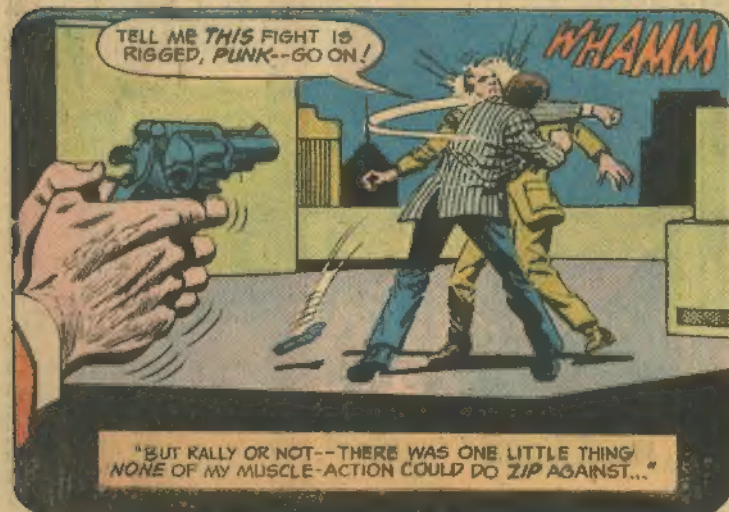
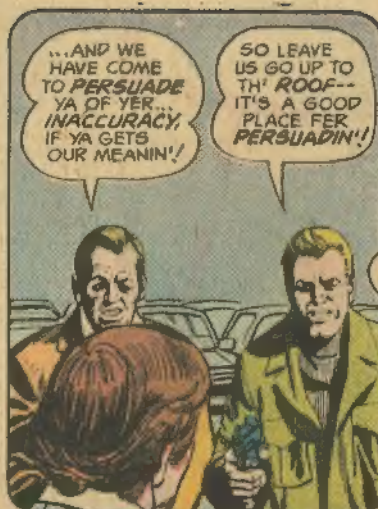
...I MIGHT'VE RUN IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!

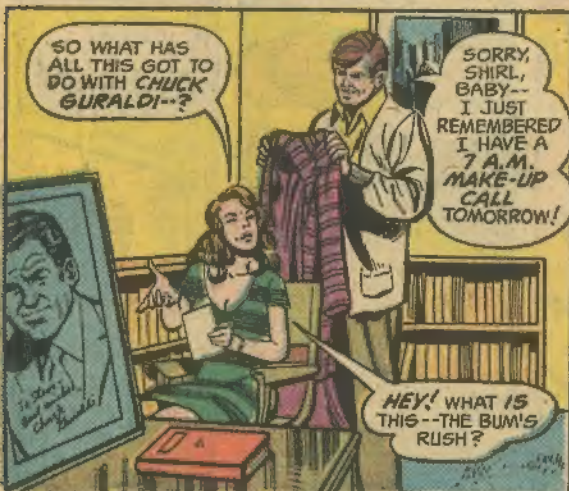


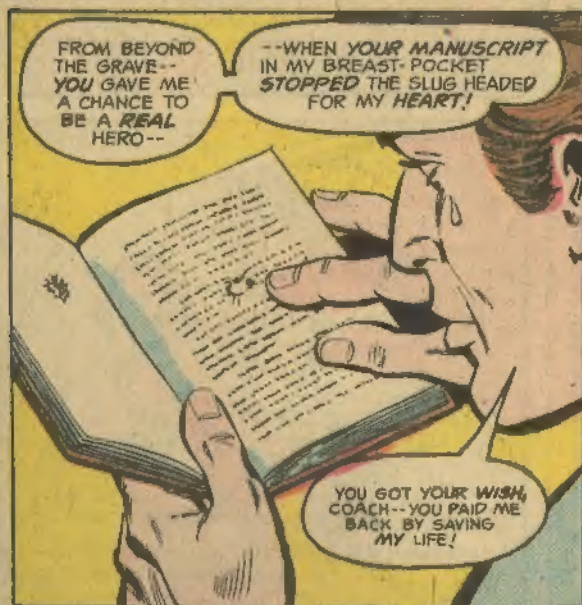
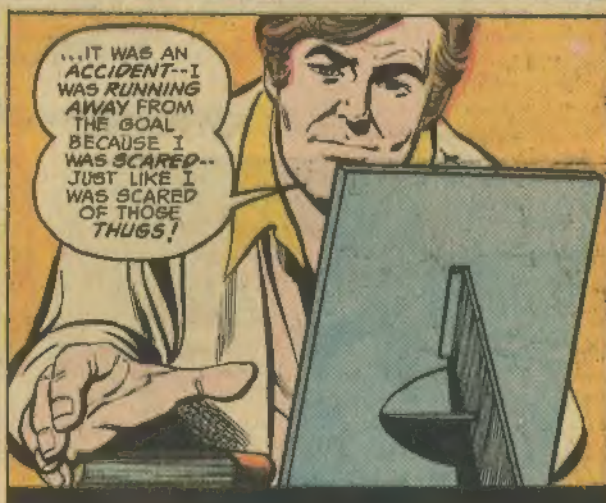
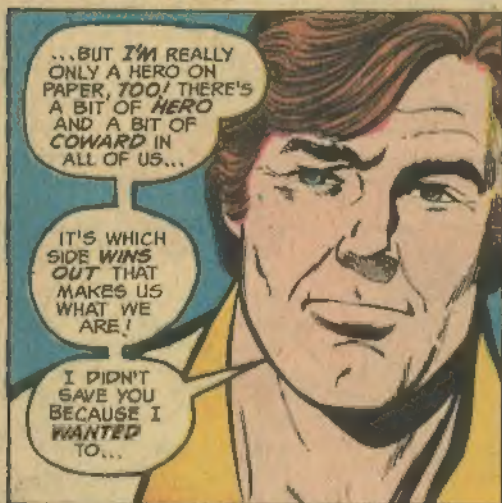
"WHICH IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO WRITE THAT FOREWORD..."

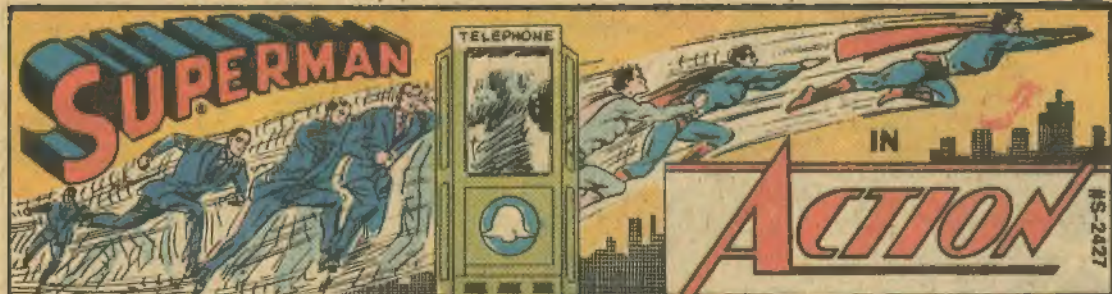
WELL? WILL YOU DO IT?

I'LL... THINK ABOUT IT!









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Dear E.N.B.:

I suppose *Action Comics* #460 and 461 can be considered firsts in that both took place on the same street corner. Assuming anybody really cares.

I'm certain there won't be apathy concerning "Kill Me or Leave Me," however. It presents Superman with the first really important moral decision he's had to make in some time. Of course, leaving Earth isn't the solution, as *Karb-Brak* suggested. *Karb* would still have to contend with *Super-girl* and possibly other super-heroes who cause an allergic reaction in him. Logically, he could just move out of *Metropolis*, but that's postponing a solution instead of forming one.

I'm certainly intrigued by *Superman's* latest dilemma. My only answer to his problem is to have him deposit *Karb-Brak* here on Earth-Prime and let us deal with him (which we may never have to do, since we don't have any super-heroes).

I was also terribly impressed by "The Toughest Newsboy in Town!" *Superman* is the only comics hero whose backup characters are stars in their own right, which, of course, is not only to the benefit of his series, but also to the benefit of this new series. The story was deftly scripted with warmth and realism... the injections of Perry translating his colloquialisms into modern slang were brilliantly handled.

Bob Rodi, Oak Brook, Ill.

(Well, by now you know what *Superman's* solution to the *Karb-Brak* problem was. And it's a good thing he didn't saddle us with the alien from *Andromeda*. After all, suppose we did get a super-hero?—E.N.B.)

Dear Editor:

I've read *Steranko's History of Comics*. I've read *The Great Comic Book Heroes*, by Jules Feiffer. And after all that, I still can't see what's so great about *Superman*.

But he is great. Take *Action* #461. What did *Superman* do? He threw some punches, got beaten into the ground, foiled some robbers, figured out his enemy's plans.

But he did something more. He let me forget about the daily traffic jam, the boss, etc. He also entertained the exploding planet between my ears.

Hey, that's what's so great about *Superman*!

Kurt Fowler, Jacksonville, Fla.

(Right! Of all his missions, that's the most important!—E.N.B.)

Dear Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Bridwell:

All I can say is, "Almost, Bates!" It looked like Cary Bates was finally going to write a decent script, but unfortunately, the plot fell through. At least I'll give him credit for doing his homework: he did a good job of incorporating issue 219 of *Superman* into his plot and making it look like a brand-new concept. I'll even bet

you'll get stacks of letters applauding Bates' "original" idea of making Clark Kent a hero. However, let's keep the record straight, huh?

Subtracting the four pages Bates "borrowed" from *Superman* #219, we are left with seven pages to fill. Let's subtract the purely odious "*Karb-Brak*" plot. Hey, wait a minute. Now there's nothing left.

Now I've figured it out. Bates did not use any subplots in the story. No wonder it was so shallow and lifeless. There wasn't any suspense. And to make it worse, you insulted my intelligence with the "foreboding" grabber at the end: "You have to make a crucial decision, *Superman*—leave the Earth and let me live! Or... stay on Earth—and kill me! What are you going to do, *Superman*? What are you going to do?" Gee, I don't know. If he leaves Earth, there goes the entire *Superman* series. But if he stays, he'll kill *Karb-Brak* and break his solemn vow. So I guess Bates will bring in option #3: *Superman* finds a cure and returns him to the *Andromeda* Galaxy. And this is the kind of story you're running for three issues?

In this issue, marred by incompetent scribbling, I found a credible story about one of my all-time favorite characters, Perry White! Ah, that name brings back fond memories. I thought he had died, for all the attention he's had recently. The best move you've made was in evicting *Atom* and *Green Arrow* and substituting characters worthy of a back-up feature. Maybe next issue, you can have a *Bizarro* story. Dave Blanchard, Rockford, Ill.

(No, but *Bizarro* is in the latest issue of *Superman*! And you were close to the solution to the *Karb-Brak* question. Only you never guessed *Supes* would kill him first, then cure him—and leave him on Earth. Or that the story would run to four issues instead of three. And since you like to have the record set straight, that story you accused Cary of "borrowing" from, back in *Superman* 219, was written by —Cary Bates!—E.N.B.)

Dear Editor:

I wasn't expecting a three-parter out of the *Karb-Brak* plot, but I guess with only 11 pages per issue, there's no getting around it. You must be congratulated for an excellent job of recapping—about time you learned it's more effective to recap after the first major new action.

The Perry White story was a nice shorty, even if a bit unbelievable. But I didn't know Perry had grandchildren! Still, what's a character if you don't develop it?

Wiacek and Austin's names were spread out over the issue, just as in this month's *Superman*. Do they do backgrounds or certain whole panels? Whatever, the art's improved vastly this month.

Mark Schmieder, Concord, Mass.

(They're background men for Tex Blaisdell. But didn't you spot the other "Continuity" names slipped in with them—Giordano and Bob Grant?—E. Nelson Bridwell)